

Northern Arches *Apamea zeta assimilis* (Doubleday) (Lep.: Noctuidae) discovered in Dumfriesshire

Seven examples of Northern Arches were trapped at light near Wanlockhead, Dumfriesshire, in an extensive area of open grassland and heather moor. One was found at 725m on 2 August 2003 on the summit of Lowther Hill (O. S. grid reference NS 890106) and we found six more on the lower slopes at 530m the following night (NS 883117).

Heath and Emmet 1979 (*Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 10: 186-188) describe this species as widespread in the Scottish Highlands, with Arran and Midlothian shown as the most southerly sites. The latter refers to records at Edinburgh in 1954 and 1978 (*Entomologist* 88: 40 and *Ent. Rec.* 90: 338). When reporting on its first discovery at Edinburgh, Pelham-Clinton suggested that "it may well be widely distributed in high moorland bogs in the border counties, not many of which have even been well worked with sugar and probably none with the mercury-vapour lamp". Fifty years later, the high ground in southern Scotland is still relatively un-worked, but the nature of these new records indicates that the species is resident and breeding in Dumfriesshire. It is likely to be much more widespread, as indicated by Waring and Townsend, 2003 (*Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*, p. 348) who mention a single record from Northumberland on 13 July 1992. Evidently, much more work is required to establish the southern range of Northern Arches.

We would like to thank Keith Bland for confirming the identity of two specimens and for bringing the two Edinburgh records to our attention.— RICHARD AND BARBARA MEARN, Connansknowe, Kirkton, Dumfries DG1 1SX.

Search for larvae of Buttoned Snout *Hypena rostralis* (L.) (Lep: Noctuidae) in Suffolk, 2003

Having heard and read reports of successful searches for the larva of this species in other south-eastern counties I thought it would be useful to carry out a similar search in Suffolk in 2003. Recent records of the moth in Suffolk prior to 2003 have consisted of occasional scattered reports of the adult at light with no records of larvae. As the foodplant, Hop *Humulus lupulus*, is widespread and reasonably common throughout most of the county chances of success seemed reasonable. The plan was to attempt to find the larva in as many 10 km squares as possible in the county rather than try to assess population levels or density within a more limited area.

I spent several days through July and early August driving around the lanes of Suffolk looking for Hop growing in roadside hedgerows. Having located the foodplant rustling the leaves over a butterfly net with the net stretched flat over the rim usually produced larvae in a short period of time, no more than ten minutes. I opted for the smaller butterfly net 'beating tray' as the normal beating tray I found was